

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

e Patent Application of:

Examiner: Etienne Pierre Leroux

Xiao Feng Li

Art Unit: 2171

Application No.: 09/964,724

Confirmation No.: 1828

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Technology Center 2100

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MAIL STOP RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed April 27, 2004, applicant respectfully requests that the following amendment and remarks be considered. A Request for Continued Examination is filed herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on July 21, 2004.

Ines Francetic

(Typed or printed name of person mailing correspondence)

(Signature of person mailing correspondence)